What is claimed is:

- R 1. A granule consisting of:
 - (a) crystals of potassium chloride; and
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- (b) a thermoplastic cellulose ether.
- The granule of claim 1, wherein the potassium chloride crystals are between about 20 60 mesh.
 - \mathcal{L} 3. The granule of claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic cellulose ether is ethylcellulose.
 - 4. The granule of claim 3, wherein the ethylcellulose has a viscosity between approximately 10 30 cP.
 - 5. An extended release tablet comprising a plurality of granules consisting of potassium chloride crystals and a thermoplastic cellulose ether.
 - 6. The tablet of claim 5, wherein the granules are essentially free of surfactants or processing aids and agents.
 - 7. The tablet of claim 5, wherein the potassium chloride crystals comprise approximately 75.3% by weight based on the total weight of the tablet.
 - 8. The tablet of claim 5, wherein the thermoplastic cellulose ether is ethylcellulose.
 - 9. The tablet of claim 8, wherein ethylcellulose comprises approximately 15.5% by weight based on the total weight of the tablet!
 - 10. A pharmaceutical dosage unit in tablet form comprising a plurality of granules having an internal core of potassium chloride and an external coating of

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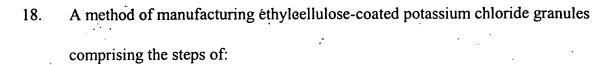
- 11. The tablet of claim 10, wherein the core of potassium chloride comprises approximately 75.3% by weight based on the total weight of said tablet.
- 12. The tablet of claim 10, wherein the ethylcellulose comprises approximately 15.5% by weight based on the total weight of said tablet.
- 13. A process to produce ethylcellulose-coated potassium chloride granules comprising the steps of:

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- i) forming a fluidized bed of potassium chloride crystals at a dew point of about $10\text{-}20^{\circ}$ C,
- ii) spraying the fluidized crystals with a mixture consisting of ethylcellulose, alcohol and water sufficient to coat the crystals, and
- iii) drying the coated crystals to remove the water and alcohol to provide coated potassium chloride granules.
- 14. The process according to claim 13 wherein the dew point in step i) is 15° C.
- 15. The process according to claim 13 wherein the coated potassium chloride granules of step iii) are essentially free of surfactants or processing aids and agents.
- 16. The process according to claim 13 wherein the alcohol is methyl alcohol.
- 17. The process according to claim 16 wherein the mixture of step ii) is about 10.3% ethylcellulose, 2.1% water and 87.6% methyl alcohol, by weight.



- i) forming a fluidized bed of potassium chloride crystals,
- ii) spraying the fluidized crystals with a mixture consisting of ethylcellulose, alcohol, and sufficient water to control the buildup of static charge so as to enable substantially complete coating of the crystals, and
- iii) drying the coated crystals to remove the water and alcohol to provide coated potassium chloride granules.
- 19. The method of claim 18 wherein the coated potassium chloride granules of step iii) are essentially free of surfactants or processing aids and agents.
- 20. The method of claim 18 wherein the mixture of step ii) comprises 0.5 2% water, by weight.
- 21. The method of claim 18 wherein the alcohol is methyl alcohol.
- 22. The method of claim 21 wherein the mixture of step ii) is about 10.3% ethylcellulose, 2.1% water and 87.6% methyl alcohol, by weight.